

## Today's News - Friday, February 27, 2009

- Peters reviews BIG at the DAC in Copenhagen and likes (almost) everything she sees.
- Glancey, McCullagh, and Hecker each take on whether there's a silver lining for design in these black economic times.
- The Bauhaus celebrates its 90th anniversary; can its legacy contribute to today's society? (terrific slide show!)
- Grimshaw and Smith take to the roof of a Bronx water plant that will double as a 9-acre driving range: "think Pebble Beach meets the Biosphere meets Rikers."
- Kamin on reports that Sears Tower could sport a new silver skin: "a green idea that isn't as good as gold" (it's not likely to happen anyway, but the pix is intriguing).
- It looks like Baranes might have to go back to the drawing board for Baltimore's Mechanic Theatre tower.
- First look at the soon-to-be-completed Museum of Liverpool (cool!).
- Koshalek exits left coast for right coast to lead Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum.
- Call for entries: Envisioning the Future of Jakarta International Architectural and Urban Design Competition (cash prizes; no registration fee).
- We couldn't resist: Navy seeks home for top-secret seagoing vessels (suitable for the James Bond in you).
- Weekend diversions: "Patterns" in architecture explored at Harvard (BIG's here, too).
- "Laboratory of Architecture/Fernando Romero" in Pittsburgh.
- Brit Insurance Design Awards 2009 category winners announced - and on view with the rest of the shortlist at London's Design Museum.
- NY Botanical Garden sprouts "The Orchid Show: Brazilian Modern," a tribute to Roberto Burle Marx's modernist forms.
- In Cebu, a week-long "mother of all festivals" will pay tribute to the Philippines' home-grown talents.
- Page turners: "The Philip Johnson Tapes: Interviews with Robert AM Stern" is a "testament to what mouth and money can bring."
- "Inside El Barrio" offers a surprising view of Cuban neighborhood life and "the profound community development that sustains Castro's government."
- "Modern Americana" offers the wonders of wacky designs.
- Boyle's "The Women" is an "entertaining and enlightening addition" to FLW literature.
- "Where Things Are, From Near to Far": a children's book about urban planning.

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**Exhibition Review: "Yes is More": BIG at DAC, Copenhagen:** Though the firm's housing projects are amazing and their enthusiasm is great, the comic book graphics are a bit much - it's hard not to roll your eyes, but definitely worth the roll. By Terri Peters [images]- ArchNewsNow

**Unfashionable locations:** As the bust finally hits Dubai, do SANAA, designer of this year's upcoming Serpentine pavilion, and Corbusier, the show of whose work is now at the Barbican in London after its Liverpool opening, point the way to a more humane and modest architecture? By Jonathan Glancey - BD/Building Design (UK)

**Design and the Depression, The Debate: Part One: Is there an upside to the recession?** Quite a few people seem to think so...a moral reawakening would replace stylistic decadence. With echoes of the early-Nineties, designers are again beating themselves up over their supposed excess...But the Bring-On-The-Slump crowd are equally self-indulgent. By Kevin McCullagh - Blueprint Magazine

**Design and the Depression, The Debate: Part Two: ...the global economic crisis brings not only hardship for individuals and societies, but will inevitably create radical shifts in our aesthetic sensibility...**Moral-ethical positions will be needed to put into motion creative forces silenced by the widespread decadence. By Zvi Hecker - Blueprint Magazine

**The Legacy of Modernism: Celebrating 90 Years of Bauhaus:** ...the anniversary is being marked by exhibitions from Tokyo to New York...The real feat achieved by Gropius and his cohorts was to have recognized and exposed the sociopolitical and moral power of architecture and design + Philipp Oswalt on how the Bauhaus can contribute to today's society. [slide show, links]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

**Fore! Nation's largest green roof atop Bronx water plant doubles as driving range...**Think Pebble Beach meets the Biosphere meets Rikers. -- Grimshaw; Ken Smith; Great Ecology & Environments [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

**Sears Tower in silver? A green idea that isn't as good as gold...**even if such an outlandish move might cut energy costs at the nation's tallest building...How would Sears look in its new skin? My answer: Ridiculous. By Blair Kamin -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill [image, links]- Chicago Tribune

**Design plan for new Morris A. Mechanic Theatre draws criticism:** City design panel not pleased with...lack of identity of adjoining tower...includes an inviting outdoor plaza and preserves much of the shuttered theater's architectural significance, but it falls short in its concept for a new 32-story hotel and residential tower... -- John Johansen (1967); Shalom Baranes - Baltimore Sun

**First look: Museum of Liverpool...soon-to-be-completed...on the city's waterfront...**controversial £68 million X-shaped building next to Liverpool's famous Three Graces was originally designed by 3XN. However, the Danes left the project in late 2007... - AEW Architects [images]- The Architects' Journal

**Richard Koshalek to lead Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum:** Ousted last year as president of Pasadena's Art Center College of Design, [he] will return to the museum world in the nation's capital- Los Angeles Times

**Call for entries: Gotong Royong City: Envisioning the Future of Jakarta International Architectural and Urban Design Competition;** cash prizes; (free) registration deadline: **March 14**- International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) 2009 / Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (Indonesian Institute of Architects Jakarta Chapter)

**Navy Seeks Home for Top-Secret Vessel:** Anybody want some top-secret seagoing vessels? Sea Shadow and Its Satellite-Proof Barge...headed for the scrap yard if somebody doesn't speak up soon. [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

**Exploring 'Patterns' in architecture:** Curated by Paul Andersen..."Patterns: Cases in Synthetic Intelligence" on view in the Gund Hall Lobby, Harvard Graduate School of Design, through March 15. -- Ciro Najle; Kelly Doran; MOS; Indie Architecture; gnuform; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); reiser + umemoto; Atelier Manferdini; IJP; EMERGENT; Stoss Landscape Urbanism; Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)- Harvard Gazette

**Carnegie Museum Presents "Laboratory of Architecture/Fernando Romero":** The first monographic exhibition dedicated to the work of Fernando Romero and his Mexico City-based practice, LAR...will be on view in the Heinz Architectural Center February 28-May 31 - Huliq.com

**Brit Insurance Design Awards 2009 - Category Winners Announced:** ...seven winning designs, along with the rest of the shortlist, are currently on show at the Design Museum... -- Snøhetta; Konstantin Grcic; Shepard Fairey; Singgih S Kartono;

[etc.](#) - Art Daily

[Orchids as Art, With a Nod to Brazil: "The Orchid Show: Brazilian Modern," which opens on Saturday at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx...a tribute to Roberto Burle Marx's modernist forms. -- Raymond Jungles \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[One Visayas is here! ...the most serious attempt to bring together the provinces of the three Central Philippine regions to showcase the best of their culture and art forms, opens this Sunday, March 1..."One People, One Vision", this mother of all festivals will pay tribute to home-grown talents \[in\] visual arts, theater, film, architecture, literature and being Bisaya...- Cebu Daily News \(Philippines\)](#)

[Book review: "The Philip Johnson Tapes: Interviews with Robert AM Stern"...This book, like Johnson's career, is a testament to what mouth and money can bring. His legacy is as huge as it is pernicious.- Icon magazine \(UK\)](#)

[Book review: A Surprising View of Cuban Neighborhood Life: "Inside El Barrio: A Bottom Up View of Neighborhood Life in Castro's Cuba" by Henry Louis Taylor: Outsiders don't see the profound community development that sustains Castro's government- University at Buffalo News](#)

[Book review: The Wonders of Wacky Designs: "Modern Americana: Studio Furniture From High Craft to High Glam" by Todd Merrill and Julie V. Iovine...a quirkier narrative of designers like Vladimir Kagan, Paul Evans, Wendell Castle and Billy Haines, who pursued their own idiosyncratic visions...- New York Times](#)

[Ex-Marin author paints Frank Lloyd Wright as pompous, a megalomaniac and a cheat..."The Women" by T.C. Boyle...an entertaining and enlightening addition to the vast amount of literature on a controversial figure who just happens to be part of the heart and soul of Marin County, like him or not.- Marin Independent Journal \(California\)](#)

[Book review: My First Book of Urban Planning: Architects may need only to point at a building to explain to their children what they do. Planners aren't so lucky..."Where Things Are, From Near to Far" by Chris Steins and Tim Halbur may help shed light at a time when interest in the field seems to be growing.- New York Times](#)



[UNStudio: MUMUTH Music Theatre, Graz, Austria](#)

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